REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The Board interpreted "the further crosslinking of the graft copolymer forms a highly stabilized, immunoprotective coating of water-soluble polymer about the treated cell (FF 2 on pg. 3 of the decision), that

> "[t]he resultant covalently crosslinked network is significantly more stable than the ionically attached graft copolymer. Thus the immunoprotective properties conferred upon the cell by absorption of PLL-PEG on its surface are no longer transient as may be expected through an ionic interaction, but are permanent due to the formation of intermolecular and intramolecular covalent crosslinks formed with the PLL-PEG" (FF 3; pgs. 3-4 of the decision)

and that "[t]his causes crosslinking of the copolymer on the surface of the cell resulting in the immunoprotective layer (FF 4; pg. 4 of the decision) as not showing covalent attachment of Desai's or Francis' nonimmunogenic polymers (e.g. PLL, PEG, TmPEG, etc.) to a cell surface, which then would necessarily block the antigenic determinants normally present on the "treated [surface of a] cell" through either direct bonding to the antigenic sites' carbons, oxygens or hydrogens, or due to steric hinderance (pgs. 4 & 6 of the decision); even though carbons, oxygens and hydrogens in DNA and protein (i.e., as it relates to pages 19 & 23-24 of Appellants' Brief), and in "acrylate groups on the graft copolymer…" (e.g., as it relates to FF 3 on page 3 of the BPAI decision), etc. are not uniquely reacted in DNA or intramolecularly "to each other" (i.e., as it relates to covalent bonding caused by UV crosslinking or "free radical polymerization"), but alternatively and globally form covalent bonds wherever the appropriate carbons, oxygens or hydrogens are available for covalent bonding (i.e., at the undefined and generic antigenic sites that necessarily fully cover each and every cell "on its surface"). It is further noted that arguments related to how product-by-process limitations are examined in

product claims (i.e., as it relates to different covalent bond formation methods using the same nonimmunogenic TmPEG polymers, etc) were not addressed by the Board.

2. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to examiner Robert Hayes whose telephone number is (571) 272-0885. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ali Salimi, can be reached on (571) 272-0909. The fax phone number for this Group is (571) 273-8300.

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Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1649
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